1. **Title**: Political Representation in Indonesia
2. **Convener**: Prof Edward Aspinall, Australian National University, [edward.aspinall@anu.edu.au](mailto:edward.aspinall@anu.edu.au)
3. **Format**: The panel will be in either single or double format and consist of up to seven or eight presentations (15 minutes each), one or two discussants (10 minutes each) (depending on whether we have enough participants for a double panel), followed by 20-40 minutes of discussion and Q&A per session (depending on final numbers).
4. **Description**: Over the past two decades, political scientists have written extensively about the quality of Indonesia’s democratic institutions; surprisingly little work has been done to examine the specific problem of representation. There is much we do not know about how Indonesians—both elites and voters— understand the concept of political representation. In the comparative literature, scholars distinguish between the *substantive* representation of voters’ ideological positions, preferences, and demands, and the *descriptive* representation of demographic groups within political institutions—for example in terms of class, gender or religion. Gaps or failings on either score can impact popular satisfaction with democratic politics (Hayes and Hibbing 2016; Pruehs 2006; Wängnerud 2009; Clayton et al 2019).

This panel, therefore, brings together three presentations that take a broad look at problems of political representation in contemporary Indonesia. We ask: How do voters from different social groups understand the concept of representation? Is representation conceived of mostly in descriptive or substantive terms? Who feels represented, who doesn’t, and why? How can we explain the under-representation of particular groups, like the working class or women? How do politicians, from local legislators to the president, view their role as elected representatives? And how do entrenched patterns of clientelist politics impede or facilitate different forms of representation?

Papers will address these sorts of questions using a range of methodological tools, from national surveys to elite interviews. We bring original empirical material to bear upon questions rarely asked in the Indonesian context, and in doing so hope to bring the Indonesian case into conversation with comparative scholarship on how representation works in young and clientelist democracies.

1. **Single or double session**.

Edward Aspinall, Australian National University (Chair)

Confirmed:

Diego Fossati, City University Hong Kong

Eve Warburton, Australian National University

Marcus Mietzner, Australian National University

Amalinda Savirani, Universitas Gadjah Mada

Additional speakers (up to three) to be recruited via open call for papers. Participants from Indonesia and/or other parts of Southeast Asia are especially encouraged to apply.

1. **Discussant 1**: Meredith Weiss, The State University of New York

**Discussant 2**: Edward Aspinall, Australian National University